

CITY OF FOOLS: Rule and Misrule in the Middle Ages

A WORLD GONE MAD

*In which we discover that “sanity” and “madness” are, perhaps, relative terms...
A powerful, existential satire by one of the greatest troubadours,
Peire Cardenal (1180-1278) a Provençal cleric and moralist who transformed
tender love songs into razor-sharp polemics against human folly.*

Lament for a world gone mad (instrumental)

Una ciutat fo, no sai cals

Text: Peire Cardenal (1180-1278)

Music: Based on a Cantiga de Santa Maria

IT'S GOOD TO BE THE KING!

*Long live the King! May he be young, courteous, and valiant! Honesty and
nobility adorn him; his noble acts are worthy of admiration.*

Rex in aeternum vive!

Anonymous, The Play of Daniel (13th c.)

Jubilemus regi nostro

Anonymous, The Play of Daniel

Bel m'es, quan vei chamjar lo senorhatge

Bertran de Born (1150? -1215)

Ecce rex Darius.

Anonymous, The Play of Daniel

Rex in aeternum vive!

Anonymous, The Play of Daniel

OF ABUSIVE KINGS

*But kings may, or may not, be up to their tasks. Some lie, some cheat. Some drink to excess. Some are
power-mad and abuse their people. And anyway, tell me – is he legit?*

Lai royal (instrumental)

Anonymous (13th c.?)

A toi roi Artus

Anonymous (13th c. ?)

Tan me sui de dire

Anonymous (13th c.?)

En talent ai ke je die

Hue de la Ferté (fl 1220-1235)

Der kuninc Rodolp

Der Unverzagte (fl late 13th c.)

Hé diex qu'il y a de faus visages (text read)

Gervais du Bus (fl 1312-1345)

Se cuers/Rex beatus/Ave

Anonymous (ca. 1310)

WHERE IS THE TRUTH?

Abusers may also abound in the world of religion and the church. Money collected from the poor and dying, influence-peddling and bribery even at the court of the Pope – the fox has entered into the henhouse! Where is truth?

Cantiga (instrumental)	Adapted from Alfonso el Sabio (1221-1284)
Curritur ad vocem	Anonymous, Carmina Burana (12 th c.?)
Tartarassa ni vautour	Text: Pierre Cardenal Music: Bernatz de Ventadorn (1135-1194)
Cantiga (instrumental)	Adapted from Alfonso el Sabio
Omne pene curie	Anonymous, Le Roman de Fauvel (ca. 1310)
Roma trichairitz	Text: Guilhem Figueira (ca. 1230) Music: after Peire Vidal (ca. 1180-1205)
Dic christi veritas	Phillip the Chancellor (1160–1236), Carmina Burana
Bulla fulminante	Phillip the Chancellor, Carmina Burana

HOW LONELY THE CITY IS!

Sheep, what are we listening to? 'Follow the way of righteousness' seems to be the recommendation from Philip the Chancellor.

Lamentatio Jeremiae Prophetae	Plainchant
Quomodo cantabimus/Thalamus puerpere	Anonymous, Le Roman de Fauvel
Bonum est confidere	Philip the Chancellor, Carmina Burana

Ci chans veut boire	Anonymous, Le Roman de Fauvel

THE BOSTON CAMERATA

Anne Azéma, voice, hurdy gurdy and direction
Michael Barrett, voice
Ryan Lustgarten, voice
John Taylor Ward, voice
with
Shira Kammen, vielle and harp
Dan Meyers, winds

Various readings from sources old and new, including, the Bible, Euripides, Dante Alighieri,
Thomas Paine, Frederick Douglass and others, read by:
Joel Cohen, Joe Bocchicchio, Laura Morales Guirales, David Smith.

THE CAMERATA WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Joel Cohen, Music Director Emeritus, for the edition of some pieces.

Much of the music on this program has been recorded by Anne Azéma and The Boston Camerata
on a series of CDs. *Provence Mystique, Carmina Burana, Le Roman de Fauvel*
are available on all platforms.

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Laura MoralesGuirales, Liron Riess and Bill Riess, Carmen and Mark Sivers, David Smith.

Caitin Laird, Surtitles